6/17/02

FACT SHEET

REVISION OF THE INDUSTRIAL SOURCE CATEGORY LIST UNDER EPA'S INTEGRATED URBAN AIR TOXICS STRATEGY

TODAY'S ACTION

! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is revising the list of categories of small industrial facilities, known as area source categories, for which it intends to develop standards to control toxic air pollutants under its Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy. Specifically, EPA is adding 18 area source categories.

! Toxic air pollutants, also called air toxics, are pollutants that are known or suspected to cause cancer and other serious health problems.

! "Area" sources are those sources that emit less than 10 tons annually of a single toxic air pollutant or less than 25 tons or more of a combination of air toxics.

! Today's revisions do not include requirements to reduce emissions of air toxics. EPA will develop those requirements according to its rulemaking schedule.

! Today's notice announces the addition of the following 18 area source categories to the air toxics source category list:

- Acrylic Fibers/Modacrylic Fibers Production
- Agriculture Chemicals & Pesticides Manufacturing
- Autobody Refinishing Paint Shops
- Cadmium Refining & Cadmium Oxide Production
- Flexible Polyurethane Foam Production
- Iron Foundries
- Lead Acid Battery Manufacturing
- Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (MON)
- Pharmaceutical Production
- Plating and Polishing
- Polyvinyl Chloride & Copolymers Production
- Pressed and Blown Glass & Glassware Manufacturing
- Secondary Copper Smelting
- Secondary Nonferrous Metals
- Sewage Sludge Incineration
- Stainless and Nonstainless Steel Manufacturing Electric Arc Furnaces

- Steel Foundries
- Wood Preserving

BACKGROUND

! Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate sources of listed toxic air pollutants. On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industry groups (known as source categories) that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).

! For listed categories of area sources, the Clean Air Act requires development of either MACT or generally achievable control technology (GACT) standards. GACT standards are more flexible requirements than MACT standards. For example, GACT standards do not have a requirement to set a control baseline or “floor” that is equal to the controls used for the best performing 12% of a type of facility. Also, GACT standards also allow cont effectiveness of air pollution controls to be considered.

! The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify and list the area source categories that release 90 percent of the emissions of 30 toxic air pollutants listed in EPA’s Integrated Urban Strategy. These 30 air toxics are considered to be the pollutants that pose the greatest threat in the largest number of urban areas an include compounds such as benzene, chromium, vinyl chloride and dioxin.

! In its July 1999 Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy, EPA identified 16 area source categories that had already been listed for regulation elsewhere under the Clean Air Act, and 13 additional categories. These 29 categories, however, did not meet the requirement to list area sources that represent 90 percent of the emissions of the 30 area source air toxics. Today’s additions will contribute to the 90 percent goal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

! To read the text of today’s notice, go to EPA’s Worldwide Web site at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg. For more information on the source category additions under the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy, call Ms. Barbara Driscoll of EPA’s Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-1051 or email her at driscoll.barbara@epa.gov.